

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir:

I, Joseph E. Kovarik, represent that I am one of the attorneys of record for Dr. Stephen Ritland and am authorized to sign this document on behalf of Dr. Stephen Ritland; that Dr. Stephen Ritland is the owner of the entire right, title and interest in and to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/766,094, for "POLYAXIAL CONNECTION DEVICE AND METHOD", filed February 10, 2004.

I hereby disclaim, on behalf of Dr. Stephen Ritland, the terminal part of any patent granted on U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/766,094 which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 6,736,816 and hereby agree on behalf of Dr. Stephen Ritland that any patent granted on U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/776,094 shall be enforceable only for and during such period that the legal title to said patent shall be the same as the legal title to U.S. Patent No. 6,736,816, this agreement to run with any patent granted on U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/776,094 and to be binding upon the grantee of such patent and its successors or assigns.

I do not disclaim any terminal part of any patent granted on U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/776,094 prior to the expiration date of the full statutory term of U.S. Patent No. 6,736,816 in the event that said patent later expires for failure to pay a maintenance fee, is held unenforceable, is found invalid, is statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321(a),

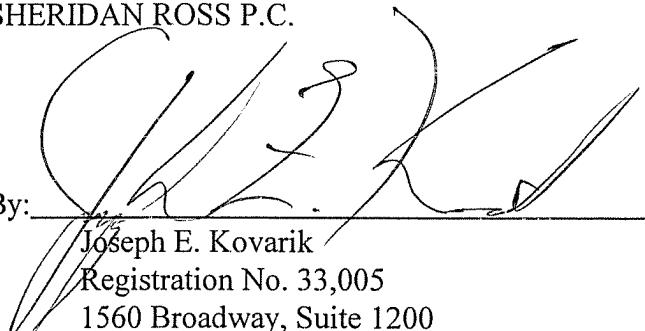
has all claims cancelled by reexamination certificate, or is otherwise terminated prior to expiration of its statutory term as presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer, except for the separation of legal title stated above.

A payment for the statutory disclaimer fee of \$65.00 as specified under 37 CFR 1.20(d) is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

By:



Joseph E. Kovarik  
Registration No. 33,005  
1560 Broadway, Suite 1200  
Denver, Colorado 80202-5141  
(303) 863-9700

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